are likely to face a bleak plight given the pathetic levels of investments in the Research and Development while their international counterparts are merging together in order to grow in size with the prime objective of saving on the research and development costs and increasing their range of products;

(b) if so, the reasons for the Indian Pharmaceutical companies lacking the required infrastructural facilities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to direct these companies to seriously take up the original research particularly when these are likely to undergo a major setback in 2010 A.D. when the Government will enforce the Patent Act on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). The mega mergers taking place in pharmaceutical companies abroad, the resources available to such companies and their emphasis on research and development will pose challenges to pharmaceutical companies in India.

In the face of these challenges, Indian pharmaceutical companies would have to shift from process development to more original research and development. While this will have to emanate primarily from the companies themselves, incentives for R and D, provision of state-of-art, infrastructural facilities from CSIR laboratories and training of R and D oriented scientists at the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research are some of the steps taken by the Government to prepare the pharmaceutical industry for the challenges ahead.

[Translation]

IDPL

3709. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited was revived during April, 1992 by BIFR after studying the report of the IDBI;

(b) whether Government are aware that all the five major plants of IDPL are on a complete standstill;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the arrears of salaries of the employees are yet payable from 1988;

(e) if so, the total amount thereof and time bound programme to pay the arrears, if any;

(f) whether the wages for October, 1996 are yet to be paid;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time bound programme to pay the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). A revival package formulated by IDPL management was approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on 10.2.1994 in terms of Section 17 (2) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Consequent upon the failure of IDPL to reach the targetted levels of production and sales in 1994-95, the BIFR reviewed the position and appointed IDBI, Bombay as the Operating Agency (O.A.) for techno-economic viability study and for suggesting long-term rehabilitation measures for IDPL. The report of the Operating Agency is awaited. IDPL has been facing severe constraints of Working Capital and other finances. As a result, the operations in its plants have come to a close except in the Madras unit which is running on a nominal basis.

(d) and (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) to (h). IDPL has since paid the wages and salaries for the month of October, 1996 to its workers and employees.

[English]

Smuggling of Cattle

3710. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether cattle smuggling in still continuing from Bihar to Bangladesh due to infrastructural bottlenecks and administrative indifferences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cattle smuggling to Bangadesh was shown on BBC;

(d) whether high level meeting with Indo-Nepal officials held in June, '95 achieved its target of stopping smuggling of the cattle;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the effective steps taken to check the illegal activities on borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Bihar has no border with Bangladesh. However, as per available reports, the cattle are brought to West Bengal from Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for smuggling across the border.

(c) As per available information, there appears to be no reference to cattle smuggling to Bangladesh on BBC.